

Message Text

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ACTION PA-02

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FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1940

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USLO RIYADH IMMEDIATE

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS ALEXANDRIA 0667

STATE FOR PA AND PA/PRESS; DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR
DR. BREZEZINSKI AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

USICA FOR PGM/P

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OBIP (VANCE, CYRUS R)

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN PRESS REPORTS ON VANCE VISIT, AUGUST 9

1. THE THREE MAJOR EGYPTIAN DAILIES ANNOUNCED THE
SEPTEMBER 5 CAMP DAVID MEETING OF THE THREE HEADS OF
STATE WITH LARGE HEADLINES FOLLOWED BY NEWS COVERAGE
OF THE UPCOMING CONFERENCE EMPHASIZING THE U.S. BECOMING
A "FULL PARTNER IN THE TALKS". BOTH AL-AHRAM AND
AL AKHBAR HAD FRONT PAGE PHOTOS OF THE MEETING. PROBABLY
BECAUSE OF THE LATENESS OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT (8 P.M.) AND
THE SURPRISE INVOLVED THERE WAS NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ON
THE UNEXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT. HEADLINES WERE: AL AHRAM,
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THE SEMI-OFFICIAL JOURNAL, "CARTER, SADAT AND BEGIN MEET
AT CAMP DAVID SEPTEMBER 5. THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCES
THE CONFERENCE FOLLOWING VANCE'S RECEIVING THE AGREEMENT
OF SADAT."

AL-AKHBAR, "A SUMMIT MEETING FOR SADAT, CARTER, AND BEGIN.
CARTER INVITES SADAT AND BEGIN TO TRIPARTITE SUMMIT
CONFERENCE IN AMERICA WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR THE 5TH OF

SEPTEMBER WITH NO TIME SCHEDULE."

AL-GOMHOURIYA, "A SUMMIT MEETING FOR SADAT, CARTER AND BEGIN ON THE 5TH OF SEPTEMBER, AMERICA BECOMES A COMPLETE PARTNER."

2. AL AHRAM STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF AMERICA'S BECOMING A COMPLETE PARTNER IN THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, SAYING THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAD WANTED THE U.S. TO ACCEPT THIS ROLE.

3. AL-AKHBAR DEPENDING LARGELY ON THE WIRE SERVICE AND ITS DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT STRESSES SADAT'S AND BEGIN'S ACCEPTING THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT CARTER "BECAUSE THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE PEACE PROCESS AND BECAUSE OF THE CONCERN OF THE U.S. DUE TO THE SLOWING DOWN OF PROGRESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST TALKS."

4. AL-GOMHOURIYA PROMINENTLY QUOTES WHITE HOUSE SOURCES AS SAYING, "THERE IS AGREEMENT AMONG THE THREE LEADERS THAT PEACE IS PARAMOUNT IN THE MIDDLE EAST." IT STRESSES MR. VANCE'S STATING THAT THE FRAMEWORK OF THE TALKS WILL LIE WITHIN UN RESOLUTION 242 AND THE INTENTION OF THE U.S. TO BE A FULL PARTNER AT THE CAMP DAVID TALKS.

5. IN THE ONLY EDITORIAL (EVIDENTLY WRITTEN BEFORE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CAMP DAVID TALKS), AL-AKHBAR UNDER UNCLASSIFIED

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THE CAPTION "IS THIS THE LAST ARROW?: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRESENT TALKS BECAUSE OF THE "TIME FACTOR."
"PRESIDENT SADAT WILL NOT RENEW THE UN FORCES STAY BEYOND OCTOBER UNLESS THERE ARE GENUINE EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM," THE PAPER DECLARED. "EGYPT HAS BEEN PATIENT AND OPTIMISTIC, BUT THERE ARE LIMITS TO PATIENCE AND OPTIMISM." THE EDITORIAL ASKS "WHAT DOES AMERICA HAVE UP ITS SLEEVE NOW, WILL IT CONTINUE PLAYING THE ROLE OF MEDIATOR BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL?" IT ANSWERS THESE QUESTIONS BY SAYING, "MR. VANCE SEEMS TO HAVE BROUGHT SOMETHING WITH HIM THIS TIME WHICH HE HAS NOT DIVULGED YET, WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE MADE KNOWN TONIGHT... THIS IS THE LAST TRY BY AMERICA TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK. IF IT FAILS, THERE REMAINS THE UN, AN EXTENDED CONFERENCE, THE TWO SUPER POWERS, AND AGAIN GENEVA."
MCCLELLAND

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